AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF MIDWAY

THE RELIEF SOCIETY

The first organization of ladies in Midway was formed October 25, 1869 and was known as the Ladies' Industrial Society. Mary Jane Robey Epperson was the president, with Sarah Wood as first counselor and Mary Bonner, second counselor. This group became the first Relief Society organization on January 29, 1870, under the direction of Bishop Abram Hatch.

Chosen as president of the new Relief Society organization was Mary Jane R. Epperson. Counselors were Sarah H. Alexander and Julia Van Wagoner, with Mary Jane Coleman as secretary and Sarah Wood, treasurer. On April 10, 1870 Mrs. Epperson was released and Mary Bronson was sustained as president.

Between 1871 and 1876 the Relief Society was reorganized with Esther Dabling as president, Sarah Alexander, first counselor and Elizabeth Alexander, secretary-treasurer. These officers served until November 30, 1876 when Mary McOlney was sustained as president with Sarah Alexander and Maggie Cunningham as counselors and Mary Jane McCarrell, secretary and Cynthia Wootton, treasurer. New counselors were sustained on January 8, 1878, and were Charlotte Gurney and Mary Gerber, Matilda Jacobs was secretary.

Another reorganization was effected on November 27, 1879 when Charlotte Gurney became president, with Mary Gerber and Margaret Watkins as counselors and Mary Bronson, secretary. Sustained as new counselors on November 25, 1880 were Cynthia Wootton and Mary Ann Watkins. Mary Bronson was released as secretary in January, 1883, and Emily A. Gerber was appointed, with Lucretia H. Coleman, assistant secretary. Others who served as secretary or assistant secretaries until the reorganization in 1895 were Ella Hamilton, Elizabeth Wintch, Mary A. Watkins, Elinor Watkins and Martha Bronson.

The next reorganization took place on June 13, 1895 when Mary Ann Watkins was sustained as president. Cynthia Wootton became first counselor and Mary Jane McCarrell second counselor. Elizabeth Wintch was secretary and Martha A. Bronson, assistant secretary.

Shortly after this reorganization the Relief Society sisters were asked by Church leaders to direct a wheat storage program. At first the wheat came in by donations. Then the Relief Society began a system of loaning wheat in the spring to people who needed it for seed, and then receiving the wheat back in the fall with one peck per bushel as interest. This increased the storage program and made large quantities of wheat available when it was badly needed by the government during World War I. Midway Ward joined with Relief Society groups throughout the Church in turning over wheat to the United States for emergency use.

When Midway Ward was divided in February, 1903 it was decided

October 11, 1914; George T. Watkins, September 19, 1915; James Sorenson, November 25, 1917; William L. Van Wagoner, October 12, 1919; Leo Van Wagoner, June 10, 1923; Albert Van Wagoner, October 28, 1923; Albert Van Wagoner, November 30, 1924; William O. Provost, December 19, 1926; William C. Crook, November 25, 1928; Fred O. Haueter, December 22, 1929; Keith Coleman, 1934; Ernest Kuhni, March 8, 1936; Reuben O. Casper, December 6, 1936; Lavon Hair, September 12, 1939; Sylvan Burgi, 1940; Grant Remund, 1941; Clyde Pyper, March 19, 1944; Clark Bronson, February 5, 1945; John Joost, August 25, 1946; Ralph Cluff, August 31, 1947; Sylvan Burgi, November 23, 1947; Leland Ivers, August 29, 1948; Reed Bezzant, November 11, 1951; Leland Ivers, 1954; Max Johnson, July, 1955; Dennis Clegg, March 1958; Theo Daybell, November, 1958.

In the Midway Second Ward the first YMMIA Superintendency was sustained June 28, 1903. Fred Hasler was superintendent, with August C. Kohler and Royal Huffaker as counselors; Nephi Huber, secretary; and later Joseph E. Huber, secretary.

Subsequent superintendents and the date of their appointment are as follows: Joseph E. Huber, October, 1912; Parley Probst, 1921; Nephi Probst, 1922; Joseph E. Probst, 1925; Roy Huffaker, 1932; Elmer Kohler, December 10, 1933; Clifford Provost, October 1, 1935; Alvin Kohler, August 16, 1936; Owen Probst, September 3, 1939; Rulon Huntington, December 9, 1945; Grant Probst, June 27, 1948; LeRoy Huffaker, September 12, 1948; Austin D. Kelly, June 6, 1954; Wayne Probst, August 5, 1958.

These officers in the two Midway Wards, their counselors and co-workers have pushed ahead the MIA program and have implemented the challenge to provide spiritualized recreation to the young people of the wards.

The first organization of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Assn., later changed to the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Assn., was in 1877 when Eliza R. Snow and Zina D. Young of the general board came to Midway and under the direction of Bishop David Van Wagenen chose Matilda Jacobs as the first president. Selected as counselors to her were Eliza Epperson and Martha A. Smith. Ella Gertrude Alexander was secretary, Elizabeth Coleman treasurer and Avis Bronson assistant secretary.

The second president, Elinor Watkins, was sustained on November 27, 1889. Other Midway Ward presidents were Rachel Holfeltz, January 8, 1891; Mary Watkins Schear, February 18, 1892.

After the ward division, Midway First Ward's presidency was organized on June 21, 1903. Ella Ross was sustained as president, with Ida Wootton and Annie Smith, counselors; Mary Bonner, secretary and Clara Bronson, treasurer. Other presidents have included Ida Wootton, December 31, 1916; Edith Van Wagoner, October 22, 1922; Alice Cole-

man, October, 1923; Nancy Haueter, August 24, 1931; Dorothy Kohler, May 30, 1937; Ruby Boss, 1941; Thelma Hair, September 12, 1941; Amber Lefler, 1942; Dora Draper, 1945; Marjorie Pyper, September, 1946; Bernice Bonner, January, 1947; Leah Wilson, 1948; Glenna Ivers, June 5, 1950; Norma Peterson, August 17, 1952; Vera Reed, June, 1954; Afton Schear, June 10, 1956; Bonnie Bezzant, June, 1960.

The Midway Second Ward YWMIA presidency was also organized on June 21, 1903, and included Avis Van Wagoner, president; Edith Bronson and Alice Kohler, counselors; Edna Wilson, secretary and Ida Huber, treasurer. The first reorganization took place on December 13, 1903 when Avis Van Wagoner moved to Provo. Nellie Smith became president. Other presidents in the ward have included Elinor Watkins, March 24, 1907; Lydia Springer, October, 1915; Hannah Wilson, December, 1916; Clara Huber, September, 1927; Naomi Burgener, September, 1928; Dorothy Holmes, August 9, 1936; Vay Allison, August 7, 1939; Thora Schear, September, 1946; Iona Huffaker, June 1950; Maude Derry, October, 1951; Vera Cluff, February, 1952; Jane Durtschi, August, 1954; Lona Kelly, August 5, 1958.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

Teaching children to worship is the special calling of the Primary Association, and Midway has been blessed with competent spiritual teachers to guide its children.

The first Primary was organized in Midway September 5, 1880 with Mary Jane Alder Abplanalp as president. Counselors were Cynthia Wootton and Rachel Holfeltz. Ellen O'Neil was secretary, and John A. Wootton, an 11-year-old boy, was chosen as treasurer. They held their first Primary meetings in a small one-room brick building.

Clara E. Provost was the second Primary president and was sustained on September 6, 1882. She was succeeded by Cordelia Wilson who was sustained on September 6, 1882. Sister Wilson remained as president until the ward was divided in 1903, a period of service extending over 21 years. In addition to her service in the Primary, she was also town nurse and midwife, helping bring some 500 babies into the world.

Primary organizations in the two wards were sustained on May 8, 1903. In Midway First Ward Elizabeth Ross was called as the first presidency. Her counselors were Eliza Hair and Mary Bronson, with Ellen Wilson as secretary and Ida Haueter as treasurer. Meetings were held once a week in the old school house that stood on the present post office site.

Subsequent presidents in the First Ward have been Emily Coleman, July, 1906; Maggie J. Wilson, 1908; Ida H. Bonner, June 27, 1915; Elfreda Remund, February 27, 1916; Celeste Van Wagoner, September 28, 1924 and then a month later released to move to Salt Lake City, returning to Midway a year later and being sustained again as president

on August 25, 1925. Serving in the meantime was Ella Watkins. Dora Hair, August 26, 1932; Lois Bonner, July 16, 1939; Winnie Van Wagoner, September, 1940; Naomi Davis, September 3, 1942; Ruth Buhler, November 6, 1944; Vera Reed, September 10, 1946; Maxine Probst, May 28, 1950; Lois Bonner, January 1, 1952; Leah Wilson, August 25, 1952; Naomi Davis, September, 1953; Chloe North, August 28, 1955; Lila Mae Johnson, June, 1960.

The first presidency in the Midway Second Ward Primary included Mary M. Probst, president; Burdine Huffaker and Lena Zenger, counselors; Myrtle Abplanalp, secretary; Isabell Wilson, assistant secretary and Iva Bunnell, librarian. Those who have served as president since that time are Ruth O'Neil, March 22, 1908; Leah Mathews, December 7, 1913; Grace W. Sonderegger, October 7, 1917; Ida Kohler, December 10, 1922; Emma Carroll, December 13, 1925; Melvina Cluff, September 18, 1926; Vivian Durtschi, November 8, 1931; Minnie Burgener, November 27, 1932; Elda Kohler, October 1, 1935; Rachel Street, September 13, 1936; Alice G. Probst, May 29, 1938; Reva Huffaker, September 1, 1940; Melba D. Probst, September 20, 1942; Beth Probst, March 28, 1943; Thora Schear, September, 1944; Marjoria Provost, August 4, 1946; Alice Probst, September 4, 1949; Lila Durtschi, June 3, 1951; Alberta Provost, September 12, 1954; Verna Huffaker, June 30, 1957.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Schools were among the first Church meetings held in the Midway area. Early meetings in the lower settlement were conducted by William Wood, while Ira Jacob directed Sunday Schools in the upper settlement. When the two settlements moved together John Huber directed services. Later George Dabling directed meetings until early in 1873 when a more complete Sunday School organization was formed with William Wilson, superintendent, John O'Neil, assistant superintendent and George Wilson, treasurer.

On December 21, 1873 a full superintendency was organized, consisting of George Dabling, superintendent, A. J. Alexander and George Bonner, assistant superintendents and Attewall Wootton, secretary-treasurer.

Other superintendents before the ward division were A. J. Alexander, July 29, 1877; Attewall Wootton, December 18, 1880; D. L. Van Wagoner, June 30, 1901.

With the division of the ward, a new superintendency for the Midway First Ward was sustained on March 9, 1903. John A. Wootton became the first superintendent, with Simon S. Epperson and Thomas A. Hair, assistants; Maggie Bonner, secretary and Minnie Johnston and Joseph F. Van Wagoner, assistant secretaries. Other superintendents in the First Ward area as follows: Charles E. Bronson, October 22, 1905; Robert B. Ross, May 10, 1908; James T. Pyper, February 21, 1909; Wil-

liam L. Van Wagoner, November 9, 1913; F. S. McQuarrie, September 12, 1920; Frederick Remund, September 4, 1921; Clark Bronson, May 5, 1923; Charles E. Buhler, December 12, 1926; Everice Floyd Bonner, January 7, 1934; Keith Coleman, December 15, 1935; Clarence H. Probst, February 16, 1936; Emery Buhler, March 12, 1944; Clyde Alder, June 23, 1946; Grant Remund, April 27, 1947; LeRoy Kohler, 1950; Emer Wilson, January 7, 1956; Irvin O. Bowden.

In the Midway Second Ward the Sunday School was organized on November 15, 1903 with David S. Van Wagoner as superintendent and George A. Huntington and John U. Probst, assistants, Mary Jane Abplanalp secretary and Clara Kohler, assistant secretary. The first reorganization took place on February 12, 1905 when Nephi Huber was sustained as superintendent. Other superintendents have been William Abplanalp, October 10, 1909; Orson P. Mathews, January 7, 1912; R. V. Huffaker, 1921; John N. Carroll, 1925; Henry Zenger, December 1, 1935; Ray Gertsch, July 28, 1940; Joseph E. Probst, December 2, 1945; Wayne Probst, October 19, 1952; Reed Gertsch, October, 1955; Kenneth Kohler, March 16, 1958.

Missionary activity has been a vital part of religious life in the Midway Wards. During a hundred years of ward organization some 150 missionaries have been called to serve full time missions, representing more than 300 years of voluntary service.

With a century of religious devotion as a foundation, members of the Midway Wards now look forward to increased activity and organization in the future as they continue to make the Golden Rule their mainstay of living.